

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2004**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; Dr. Joseph Miceli;
Barbara Thorne; Linda Santarella; Robert Harrel

STAFF: John Crary, Town Administrator

OTHERS: Dave Kenney; Flora Smith

**5:00 PM Executive Session with Wayne J. Fox, Town Counsel, on the
acquisition of real property, personnel and legal matters.**

CALL TO ORDER

The First Selectwoman called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1ST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

First Selectwoman Klein reported that the SWRPA meeting scheduled for tomorrow night has been postponed to February 11th.

First Selectwoman Klein reported that the Senior Awareness Committee met today and they are ready to go with their first newsletter in the spring. She noted that they are looking for sponsors.

The First Selectwoman reminded owners of personal property that they should be snow shoveling their sidewalks within 18 hours and that the police are putting ordinances and warnings in their mailboxes. She commented that some owners are feeling frustrated with the process.

The First Selectwoman thanked Linda Brooks, Editor of the Darien News Review, for all of her work over the past ten years. Ms. Brook was attending her last meeting before moving to Raleigh, S.C.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Meet with Peter Maglathlin, Chairman of the High School Building Committee - Update

Mr. Maglathlin gave an update on the Darien High School building project. He reported that overall the project was on schedule, despite the weather, and that was good news. He continued that some things had to be done to stay on schedule because of the weather, and that the buildings were wrapped to keep the masons working, which wasn't cheap.

He reported that the Gym was all bricked in now, the plumbing and electrical work were done and the windows needed to be put in. He continued that the Science building was all bricked up and windows are to be put in and the Cafeteria was bricked up and the cement floor was in. He stated that once the steel was up in the Auditorium, they will skip to the Classroom buildings because the Auditorium would be impossible to heat in the winter. He summarized that the Main Entrance/Main Offices/Library building was the last to go up because they needed access to the courtyard, however he expected the steel to be up in early spring.

Mr. Maglathlin then gave an updated cost summary. He reported that the total project was budgeted at \$73 Million and currently they have a \$700,000 buffer that will be needed for change orders. He stated that they were very much on target with the budget and that all costs were known at this point. He pointed out there was also a \$2 Million contingency to cover the change orders.

Mr. Maglathlin stated there was one concern with a neighbor, Mr. Eric Simonson. He reported that he had spoken to Mr. Simonson and that the distance of his house to the nearest part of the school was 675 feet. He reported that Mr. Simonson was complaining about the start time of the workers and that they had agreed to a start time of 7:00 AM. He stated that Mr. Simonson complained that he heard a truck back up at 6:30 AM and Mr. Maglathlin stated that they were doing the best they could but the workers sometimes get in early. He continued that Mr. Simonson has also complained about the lights but Mr. Maglathlin stated that safety lighting is required to be on every night because this is treated as a construction site. Mr. Maglathlin concluded by stating that he is listening to Mr. Simonson but that he cannot promise him that the workers will be quiet before 7:00 AM.

First Selectwoman Klein also stated that she has received an email from Mr. Simonson and has responded to him.

Ms. Flora Smith, 42 Hamilton Lane, asked Mr. Maglathlin if the turf field will happen by September. He replied that it would and he would like to have it installed by late spring.

b) Discussion of Outdoor Dining Guidelines

The First Selectwoman reported that in December a letter was brought forward to the Board from a local business owner that wanted to put outdoor seating and tables on Town-owned property. She reported that Jeremy Ginsberg had put together a proposed procedure for this. She continued that with this procedure the applicant will need to obtain permission from the Board to use the Town property, before going to Planning and Zoning, because the Selectmen are the property owners for the Town. She then asked for the Board's comments to the procedure proposal.

Mr. Harrel stated he would like to adopt the proposal. Ms. Thorne stated that this was a good process. Ms. Santarella agreed that she liked Mr. Ginsberg's idea. Dr. Miceli commented that they needed more creative ideas on how to use Downtown.

First Selectwoman Klein stated that the issues that needed to be addressed were to insure that liability insurance was in place and to ensure that the space is not converted for private use, but will remain open and accessible to the general public.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Vote on Board of Selectmen Priorities

The First Selectwoman reported that she and Mr. Crary had updated the list of priorities and she asked if the Board would like to discuss them.

Mr. Harrel asked if the priorities were in order and she replied that they were. Ms. Thorne requested that sidewalk extensions be included under Traffic and Transportation. Ms. Santarella requested that Charter Revision and the Downtown Task Force priorities be moved up because they did not need a huge budget and the Board should talk about doing them right away. The First Selectwoman stated that she was not going to work on Charter Revision right now because she was not ready to make the commitment. She continued that the Charter Revision documents needed to be reviewed to have the groundwork, and that realistically she was looking at the spring.

The First Selectwoman stated that she and the Business Development Committee met and that some things were in the budget to establish a Downtown Task Force, but it would not be done right now because there was too much work to do and too many questions that needed to be answered.

First Selectwoman Klein stated that she would like to add to the Open/Community Space priority to establish a Land Acquisition Task Force to develop a plan for land acquisition.

- ** DR. MICELI MOVED TO ADOPT THE LIST OF PRIORITIES AS AMENDED.**
- ** MS. THORNE SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Ms. Santarella stated that this was a wish list and because the costs were not shown, she was voting on the concept. First Selectwoman Klein stated that it was the role of the Board of Selectmen to set the direction and policy for the Town and that this was more of a "To Do" list. She continued that this document enables them to move on this list and it rests on her shoulder to complete the list.

c) Discussion of list of repairs and maintenance required at Noroton Heights Railroad Station

The First Selectwoman called attention to the Noroton Heights Railroad improvement list from the CT DOT and memoranda from Robert Steeger and Darren Oustafine of the Department of Public Works stating their list of improvements and costs estimates.

She noted that the lists should be looked at from an affordability standpoint, safety standpoint, and what the commuter surveys told them to do. Mr. Harrel questioned what the Department of Transportation's responsibilities were on these items and he did not mind doing the cleaning and the painting but they should be very careful about taking on something that was not the Town's responsibility. The First Selectwoman replied that once the priorities were determined she would negotiate with CT DOT and decide what needs to be done. The Board then discussed the list of repairs and improvements.

The Board agreed that they should begin by working on the inside waiting room by painting it and adding more chairs. Ms. Thorne stated that she would like to improve the pedestrian overpass and replace the stairs to Hollow Tree Ridge Road. Mr. Harrel asked that there be more benches along the platform outside. Lighting was also discussed. The First Selectwoman added that the commuter surveys asked for a canopy over the platforms. Dr. Miceli asked that some onus should be put on the State for the canopy and that the Board would work with them. The First Selectwoman stated that this was a start. Mr. Dave Kenney noted that the CT DOT lists was different than the Planning and Zoning lists and that combined they would cost over \$1 Million.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

January 26, 2004 - RTM Meeting at 8:15 p.m.
January 27, 2004 - P&Z – Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.
January 28, 2004 - Board of Selectmen - Budget meeting at 5:00 p.m.
January 29, 2004 - Board of Selectmen - Budget meeting at 5:00 p.m.
February 2, 2004 - Board of Selectmen - Regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.
February 3, 2004 - Board of Selectmen - Budget meeting at 5:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

(A two-thirds majority vote is required to add an item to the agenda).

**** MR. HARREL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
**** DR. MICELI SECONDED.**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The First Selectwoman closed the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna DeVito
Telesco Secretarial Services